

Application Serial No. 10/508,885
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-3914

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated September 6, 2007, the Examiner states that Claims 1-12 are pending, and of those, Claims 1-4 are withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 5-12 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant adds new Claims 13 and 14.

In the Office Action, Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 808 (JP 08-112808) in view of Hauber et al (U.S. 6,878,321), Sucech et al (U.S. 5,683,635), Watras (U.S. 2001/0044016) and Birdsey (U.S. 1,514,827). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and transverses this rejection.

Independent Claim 5 of the present application claims "spreading one portion of the slurry for application provided on the front surface covering base paper by a spreader roll to form a spread portion of the slurry for application while providing non-spread portions of the slurry for application at both sides of the spread portion" and "a length of the spreader roll in axial directions is 98% through 108% of a distance between boundary lines of the front surface and the side surface." The Applicant does not believe these features are disclosed, taught, or suggested in any of the cited references.

The Applicant disagrees that Figure 1 of JP 808 and Figure 3 of the present application show that the spreading roll 14 of JP 808 is substantially the same as Applicant's spreading roll 22. Both Figure 3 of the present application and Figure 1 of JP 808 are schematic diagrams of an example of the present invention and an example of an invention disclosed in reference 1, respectively. Therefore, the Applicant does not believe these figures provide sufficient basis for determining whether the spreading roll 22 in the Figure 3 of the present application is substantially identical to the spreading roll 14 shown in Figure 1 of JP-808.

Furthermore, the Applicant does not agree that JP 808, which discloses making a plaster board comprising paper sheet A on one side using a spreading roll 14 having a length less than the a width of 10-50 mm (paragraph 0015) suggests the claimed length of the spread roll is 98-108% of the width of the plaster board. Unlike claimed in the present application, there is no specific relation between "a length of the spreader roll in axial directions" and "a distance between boundary lines of the

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front surface and the side surface" disclosed in JP 808. Therefore, the Applicant does not believe there is any basis to believe that JP 808 discloses the length of the spread roll is 98-108% of the width of the plasterboard. Furthermore, such a relation is not easily derived from the non-spread portions with a width of 10-50 mm, the width of the paper sheet A and the length of the spreading roll 14, as disclosed in JP 808.

Additionally, the Applicant does not agree that JP 808 discloses width X (paper sheet A) = width Y (left non-spread portion) + length L (spreading roll 14) + width Y (right non-spread portion), wherein width Y (non-spread portion) is 10-50 mm. JP 808 does not disclose of a non-spread portion being fully provided between an edge of the paper sheet A for plaster board and an end of the spreading roll 14 as claimed in the present application.

For example, although JP 808 may disclose a non-spread portion of slurry being preferably formed between an end of the spreading roll and an edge of the paper sheet for plaster board (paragraph 0008), JP 808 does not teach or suggest that a non-spread portion of the slurry be fully formed between an end of the spreading roll and an edge of the paper sheet for plaster board. Also, although JP-808 discloses in paragraph 0015 that a non-spread portion 20 is formed between each end of the spreading roll 14 and each edge of the paper sheet A, the description does not teach or suggest a non-spread portion 20 being fully formed between each end of the spreading roll 14 and each edge of the paper sheet A.

Moreover, although JP 808 discloses slurry extending in the directions of the width of the paper sheet A on the spread portion 20 flowing out of both ends of the spreading roll 14 through the non-spread portion 20 and being able to flow into the respective edge portions of the paper sheet A (edge portions of a plaster board for which both sides thereof being folded) from both sides of a thin layer (paragraph 0015), the edge portions of the paper sheet A are not the edges of the paper portions, but are the edge portions of a plaster board, and therefore, the description of JP 808 does not teach or suggest a non-spread portion 20 being fully provided between an end of the spreading roll 14 and an edge of the paper sheet A. Rather, JP 808 seems to suggest a space is provided between each edge of the paper sheet A and one of the non-spread portions 20, and therefore, it would be unobvious to have no space between each edge of the paper sheet A and one of the non-spread

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Docket: CU-3914

portions 20 as claimed in the present application.

Therefore, the Applicant believes JP 808 teaches or suggests a relation of width X (paper sheet A) = width Z (left space) + width Y (left non-spread portion) + length L (spreading roll 14) + width Y (right non-spread portion) + width Z (right space), wherein width Y (non-spread portion) is 10-50 mm. In other words, JP-808 suggests a relation of width X (paper sheet A) > width Y (right non-spread portion) + length L (spreading roll 14) + width Y (right non-spread portion), wherein width Y (non-spread portion) is 10-50 mm. For simplicity, the relation is $X > L + 2Y$, wherein $Y = 10-50$ mm.

Additionally, the Applicant does not agree that that the relatively small width of the non-spread portions formed by using a spreading roll 14 having a length less than the width of the paper sheet A disclosed in JP 808 reasonably suggests a spreading roll having a length about the same as the width of the board. As mentioned above, JP 808 does not disclose a specific relation between "a length of the spreader roll in axial directions" and "a distance between boundary lines of the front surface and the side surface" as is claimed in the present application. Furthermore, the Applicant does not agree that JP 808 discloses the width X of the paper sheet A equals the width of the plaster board because a non-spread portion is provided between each edge of the paper sheet A and each end of the spreading roll 14. Therefore, the width X (paper sheet) must be greater than the width W (plaster board). For simplicity, $X > W$.

The Applicant believes it would be difficult for a person skilled in the art to obtain or derive a specific relationship between the length L of the spreading roll 14 and the width W of the plaster board based on both the above-mentioned relationships of $X > L + 2Y$ and $X > W$.

Therefore, based on the above, the Applicant does not believe it would be obvious from JP 808 or any of the cited references for a person skilled in the art to take a configuration such that "a length of the spreader roll in axial directions is 98% through 108% of a distance between boundary lines of the front surface and the side surface" in "spreading one portion of the slurry for application provided on the front surface covering base paper by a spreader roll to form a spread portion of the slurry for application while providing non-spread portions of the slurry for application at both sides of the spread portion" as claimed in independent Claim 5 of the present

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application.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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